

**REMARKS**

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-4 and 6-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, 21, and 24 are the independent claims.

The claims have not been amended.

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 15-17, and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0051545 by Tilton et al. Claims 1-3, 6-11, 15-17, and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,215,106 to Boas et al. Dependent claims 4, 12-14, 18, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either Boas et al. or Tilton et al. in view of Mok et al. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a heater block disposed opposite the device under test and which generates heat receivable by the device under test across a gap, an actuator which moves the heater block so as to adjust the gap while the heater block generates heat so as to vary an amount of heat received at the device under test so as to adjust the temperature of the device under test, and a housing which houses the actuator and the heater block and which includes an interface to hold the device under test, wherein the housing is connectable to a handler for use in automated testing equipment.

Independent claim 7 recites, *inter alia*, a block disposed opposite the device under test and which defines a passageway therebetween and through which the fluid passes over the device under test at a gap flow rate, and an actuator which moves the block so as to adjust the passageway and vary the gap flow rate of the fluid flowing over the device under test so as to adjust the temperature of the device under test.

Independent claim 21 recites, *inter alia*, determining actuator and heater block settings required to achieve a required temperature for the device under test, adjusting a heater block to generate heat according to the determined heater block setting, and adjusting the actuator to move the heater block to define a passageway above the device under test according to the determined actuator setting, through which a fluid passes over the device under test.

Independent claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, for an initial flow rate of fluid introduced into the temperature unit, determining an actuator setting required to achieve a required temperature for the device under test, and adjusting the actuator to move a block to form a passageway above the device under test according to the determined actuator setting so as to vary the initial flow rate to achieve a gap flow rate of the fluid flowing across the device under test which achieves the required temperature.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art fails to teach or suggest at least the aforementioned features of the independent claims.

Tilton et al. is directed to a semiconductor burn-in thermal management system and discusses a plurality of spray units fluidly connected to a pump to dispense a fluid upon the surface of a semiconductor during burn-in. At page 2, the Office Action contends that "portion 54 in Tilton et al. is movable towards and from the substrate to vary the temperature, in conjunction with fluid flow, both varying the temperature as claimed". Applicant respectfully disagrees. Portion 54 in Tilton et al. is a second portion of spray unit 40. Thus, it is not surprising that Tilton et al. fails to teach or suggest a heater block disposed opposite a DUT which generates heat receive and an actuator which moves the heater block, as recited in the independent claims. Further, as Tilton et al. teaches a self-contained unit, Applicant respectfully submits that Tilton et al. also fails to teach or suggest a housing, which houses the actuator and heating block, that is connectable to a handler for use in automated testing equipment. Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art would appreciate that a "handler", as recited in the pending claims, merely refers to automated chip testing equipment that "handles" a chip, and not a general control system having packaged components.

Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims are not anticipated by Tilton et al. because Tilton et al. cannot meet at least the aforementioned features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office has failed to establish a prima facie case.

Boas et al. is directed to thermally processing a substrate. At page 2, the Office Action contends that Boas et al. teaches a heated plate 22. Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, Applicant respectfully submits that Boas et al. teaches thermal processing of a substrate and does not teach or suggest processing a device under test. Second, the alleged "heated plate 22" is merely a reflector plate assembly (col. 3, line 28), and not a heater block disposed opposite the device under test which generates heat receivable by the device under test. Finally, as discussed above, Applicant respectfully notes that one skilled in the art would appreciate that a "handler" does not refer to a control system, in contrast to the assertion of the Office Action.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that, for at least these reasons, Boas et al. fails to anticipate the independent claims.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1, 7, 21, and 24 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present Response is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.


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If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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